

The Cathedral Star

September 2014

Vol. XVI • No. 1

SPECIAL STEWARDSHIP ISSUE

Father Jeff's Message



Greetings and welcome to this special parish newsletter on stewardship. As our Cathedral of the Assumption family begins a new year together in our faith journey, I want to thank the many hands that pitch in to make all we dream a reality. In this newsletter, you will find a wonderful reflection from Margaret on how we invest ourselves in the things we value; a spotlight on our Pastoral Associate for Parish Life, George Kaissieh; the "Story of Bob" from our Flaget Society; the results of our current minister survey from Angela; stewardship discernment forms from our Stewardship Committee; and a clever "Help Wanted" advertisement section from Tristan. Like all of the ministries of our Cathedral parish, this newsletter has many "fingerprints" on it for which I am very grateful! I encourage you to carefully read through this publication and begin your own discernment of your future investment in our community.

Peace to all,
Fr. Jeff

The Stewardship form trifold in the middle of this newsletter will be discussed throughout September, Stewardship month, by Fr. Jeff in his homilies and by members of the Stewardship and Cathedral Concierge Committees after Mass. We ask you to please prayerfully review and begin the discernment process of how you can invest your time and skills in our Parish, community and beyond! In late September and early October, we encourage you to complete the form. Instructions are included. We appreciate your willingness to invest in our Cathedral Family!

Sincerely,
Stewardship Committee

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Snapshot of how parishioners are involved

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Investments

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

Stewardship Form

HELP WANTED

Volunteers Needed!

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

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Voice 502-582-2971 • Fax 502-582-3919 • www.cathedraloftheassumption.org

As we are focusing on stewardship, it is appropriate to highlight the members of the Cathedral staff who give their time and talents to keep our parish running like a “well-oiled machine.” The staff has a dedication to the Cathedral that is more of a vocation than just a job. In this issue, we want to say a little something about George Kaissieh who everybody knows as George.

George Kaissieh, Pastoral Associate for Parish Life

George started his ministry at the Cathedral in November of 2006, and has become an integral part of the community. George was born in Bethlehem, not Pennsylvania, but the same Bethlehem as Jesus. He is married to Rana, and they have three beautiful children, twin sons Nathan and Timothy who are 17, and daughter Nada who is 14.

George works in the many areas that fall under the umbrella committee of Parish Life. Parish Life is responsible for everything from Feastday Fest and other parish celebrations to bereavement meals. When you see all the food at parish events, Parish Life has usually been responsible. George works with the leadership team and regularly attends the monthly meetings of the Cathedral’s Compassion group, which offers support for our LGBT sisters and brothers as well as parents, siblings and friends of LGBTs.

One of George’s greatest gifts to our parish is his love of people. He is a keen listener, wanting to know more about us. His leadership style is working side by side with us. When he makes us laugh, it is often because he has poked fun at himself.

In the area of Formation, George works with, in his words, “gifted and selfless volunteers” who walk the faith journey with those discerning becoming Catholic through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program and with

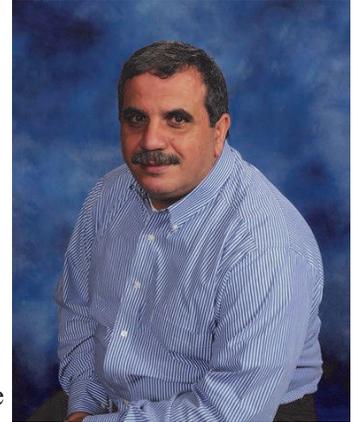
those catechists and family members who nurture the faith of our younger members from pre-k through high school age in the religious education program.

George says the Cathedral is a community where he feels at home. He appreciates the diversity found at the Cathedral, including people’s divergent views on the Catholic Church, the political realm and the fact that there are people from all walks of financial life: from the well off to people on the fringe. He appreciates the fact that with this diversity we can come together as a faith community. He expressed this as a mosaic with the many different pieces coming together to form something special based on tolerance for one another.

George’s idea of Stewardship is *giving of ourselves without thinking of what we might get back* - sort of getting away from self - not looking in the mirror to see ourselves, but looking at the people and needs out there and doing what we can do, sharing of ourselves.

When we have the opportunity, we should take a moment to say thank you to George and all the staff for their time, talent and all they do for our Cathedral.

By: Jack Lydon



In a June/July survey of parishioners actively involved in parish ministry, 125 people responded. Thanks for participating in this survey. The results will help Ministry leads plan for the future by identifying various service opportunities in our Parish.

Of those 125 responders:

- 64 are actively involved in 1 ministry
- 35 in 2 ministries
- 12 in 3 ministries
- 3 in 4 ministries
- 8 in 5 ministries
- 1 in 6 ministries
- 2 in 7 ministries

The ministries represented were:

Administration-Building & Grounds, Altar Server Weekend and Weekday, Art & Environment, Bereavement, Planned Giving, Cantor Weekend and Weekday, Catechist, Choir, Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Compassion, Administration and Finance, Communication, Concierge Team, Cross and Candle Bearer, Worship Committee, Daily Lunch Program, Docent for History Center and Cathedral, Eucharistic Minister Weekend and Weekday, Formation, Funeral Ministry, Global Outreach, Hospital Visitation, Hospitality Weekend and Weekday, Lector Weekend and Weekday, Newsletter, Office projects, Parish Council, Parish Life, Prayer Group, Adult Formation, Renew, Repair Affair, Sister Parish, Social Concerns, St. John’s Center, Special Event Set-up/Clean-up, Stewardship, Tri-Parish Senior Group, Youth Ministry, Worship Committee.

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By: Angela Wiggins

THE STORY OF BOB

Recently, I came across the story of Bob. I was told that Bob was baptized in our church in 1935. Bob was a choirboy from 1944 through 1953 and was married in our church in 1957. Bob brought up his children in our church from 1960 through 1982, all the while he and his family gave every Sunday. Yet, in 2014, when Bob passed away, he left \$1 million dollars in his will to his school. Why?

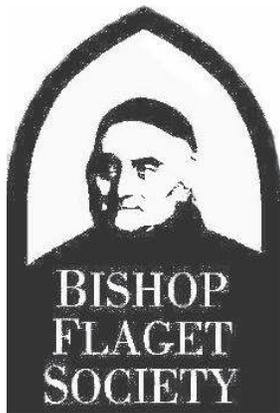
Then, I was told our church never asked Bob to remember us.

Most of us want to make a difference in the world. We want to be a part of something larger than ourselves, making things better for others.

Remembering our Cathedral in our legacy will join us to the greatest mission in history, that of Jesus Christ.

That in which she or he invests herself or himself demonstrates a person's values. You invest your time in worshipping God at our Masses. Perhaps you invest your talents in assisting in some Cathedral outreach. Your investment of monies in our collections helps our Cathedral offer what we offer to all who find a home or a helping hand in us. Remembering our Cathedral in your legacy will be an investment that will help provide long-term stability to our mission.

Many families want to celebrate their family history with the church. The opportunity to create a named endowment for outreach, education, facilities or musical excellence is a timeless way for families to document their history with the church. Remembering our Cathedral in your legacy



For more information on the Bishop Flaget Society:
<http://www.cathedraloftheassumption.org/stewardship/planned-giving>.

through an endowment will honor your family in the heart of the Archdiocese's vast mission.

Make a gift to the Cathedral at the time of your death. Whether as a bequest in your will, a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or a beneficiary of your IRA or 401(k) plan account, there are many ways to make your gift to the Cathedral. If you notify the Bishop Flaget Society of your gift, you automatically become a member of the Society. The Society does not know the amount of your gift or how it will be made and, if you prefer, your name will be kept confidential.

So, now, let's revisit the Story of Bob. Bob noted the Bishop Flaget Society information in the Sunday bulletin and contacted a Committee member to learn more. He decided this was a good way to give back to God for the many blessings he had received and to continue to help the Cathedral community after he was gone. Bob contacted his bank and listed the Cathedral as the beneficiary of one of his IRA accounts. At his death, his school still received a great deal of money, but his church also received a bequest. Because of his bequest, 10 children received tuition assistance to attend Catholic elementary school, the Choir was able to get new music stands and a construction project was completed!

How can you give back to your church community? For assistance or further information, please contact Angela Wiggins at 502-582-2971 or awiggins@cathedraloftheassumption.org.

By: Sharon Mattingly



INVESTMENT

Investment is a serious word! It plans our future, magnifies our past practices and impacts our present actions.

The way we use our time, skills and money today says a great deal about who we are, what's important to us and ultimately who we want to be.

But if you look at investment as a word, it's less serious or flashy. Webster defines investment as: "the outlay of money usually for income or profit."

"An investor refrains from consumption in the present in hopes of a greater return in the future."

How do you define investment?

The "Webster Way" or perhaps taking it a step, maybe a leap, farther!

God calls us to invest our time, skills and money in our Parish, community and world in a "Gigantic Leap Way."

No need to worry... it's not that bad! Let's start with a "Webster Way" scripture story!

Remember Matthew 25:14-30:

¹⁴⁻¹⁸ "It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But, the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

¹⁹⁻²¹ "After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

²²⁻²³ "The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

²⁴⁻²⁵ "The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

²⁶⁻²⁷ "The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been

to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

²⁸⁻³⁰ "Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And remove from my sight this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb.'

This story is a way to look at investment from a practical standpoint: how do we invest our money?

What if we look at this story from a different angle?

Instead of money perhaps we look at investment in the form of God-given gifts. Do we hide our singing voice, technical talents or passion for the faith...bury them in the ground?

Do we find a million and one excuses not to share our talents and treasures with others?

If only we would use the time it takes to come up with excuses to serve the poor or make a cake for a funeral meal...what a difference we could make!

I invite you to take a look at your own investment in our parish community. Jesus is inviting you to a deeper experience of discipleship, and he wants you to experience life with him in a living communion that involves other disciples. The parish, our community, is counting on each member to build up the body of Christ as he or she is able. We bring ourselves as we are, with our strengths and weaknesses, our joys and sorrows.

Each one of us is expected to offer a spiritual and material investment in the welfare of the community, in response to the call of Jesus.

We often refer to this investment of ourselves and our gifts using the term "stewardship." It is a mistake to think of stewardship only as the means we use to raise money for the church. Stewardship is a rich biblical concept that encompasses the complete investment one makes in a life of discipleship, in response to the generosity of God.

We need your talents, too. Most individuals and families have very hectic schedules these days, and every organization that depends on volunteers feels the pinch. Given our many responsibilities, the Catholic community has a special claim on our gifts. From serving as a minister of the liturgy, to helping with the lunch program, there is always a way to invest oneself in enriching the parish community.

In these activities, we are privileged to work side-by-side with other followers of Jesus. We make friends who share our desire for holiness, as well as the ordinary struggles of responding to grace.

By: Margaret Brosko



Stewardship

***Share yourself:
an investment
that makes things happen!***



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Sincerely,
Stewardship Committee

Discerning Financial Tithing

Financial tithing is more than putting an envelope in the collection basket every week. It is an act of worship and obedience. We encourage you to prayerfully reflect and determine an intentionality to your giving.

Greater than just a general sense of gratitude, tithing is a tangible response of gratitude for God's blessings, and an acknowledgement of God as the giver of our blessings. Tithing is a trust offering of our "first fruits" knowing that it is ultimately God that "gives us our daily bread."

In prayerful thanksgiving for the many blessings received from God, I/we commit to the Cathedral of the Assumption a proportional amount of my/our income for 2015:

\$ _____/week or \$ _____/month.

Automatic Bank Withdrawal - Electronic Transfer of Stewardship is available. If you are interested in more information, please check here.

For current Automatic Bank Withdrawal users - Beginning January 1, 2015, I/we wish to contribute:

\$ _____/week or \$ _____/month.

to be withdrawn

weekly mid-month end of month

Planned Giving

The Bishop Flaget Society is an association of men and women whose generous gifts to the Cathedral of the Assumption will help to endow the tradition of outreach to the community, the mission of service to those in need, and the liturgical, spiritual and educational ministries begun by Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget.



I am already a member of the Bishop Flaget Society.

I have already included the Cathedral in my estate plans; enroll me as a member in the Bishop Flaget Society.

Please have a member of the Bishop Flaget Society Committee contact me with more information.



*There is hope.
We can all make
a difference.
It starts with you.*



Cathedral of the Assumption Stewardship 2015

Name _____
 Date _____
 Address _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____
 Preferred method of contact: phone or email

Time and Talent

Step One: Time — Please circle how much time are you willing to contribute to the ministries of the Cathedral?
 One hour/week few hours/week few hours/month
 few hours/year project/year

Step Two: Category—Please circle the area(s) you prefer using your time and talents.

Weekend Mass Weekday Mass Community Ministry
 Formation Parish Events Social Concerns

Step Three: On pages 3 and 4 is a list of stewardship ministry opportunities available at the Cathedral with the approximate time commitment required. Please circle the ministries in which you would like to become involved and underline any ministries you would like to learn more about.

*A complete description of Ministries is available:
cathedraloftheassumption.org (stewardship tab/2014 Ministry Opportunities at the Cathedral)

Step Four: If you have any special talents or services which you would like to offer to the Cathedral, please list those here:

Step Five: Would you like to talk with a member of the stewardship team about opportunities to serve? Yes No
 Questions: 502-582-2971

* Upon completion of this form, drop in the collection basket at Mass or deliver to 433 South 5th Street, 40202. A member of the ministry in which you have expressed interest will contact you.

Stewardship Ministry Opportunities Available at the Cathedral of the Assumption

Hour/Day

Worship

- Altar Server—Weekday
- Minister of Holy Communion—Weekday
- Lector - Weekday
- Minister of Hospitality – Weekday

Parish Life

- Prayer Ministry

Few Hours/Week

Social Concerns

- Daily Lunch Program
- Community Outreach
- Social Justice

Worship

- Cathedral Singers
- Cathedral Choir

Formation

- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Children's Religious Education
- Youth Ministry
- RCIA

Administration & Finance

- Technology

Few Hours/Month

Worship

- Altar Server—Weekend
- Minister of Holy Communion – Weekend

Few Hours/Month continued

Worship

- Lector—Weekend
- Minister of Hospitality – Weekend
- Liturgical Minister for Funerals
- Crossbearer
- Art & Environment
- Sacristan

Administration & Finance

- Parish Office Mailings and Projects
- Building and Grounds
- Church Cleaning
- Special Event Set-up/Clean-up

Few Hours/Year

Formation

- Infant Baptism preparation classes
- Tri-Covenant Committee

Stewardship

- Encourage Parish Involvement

Parish Life

- Docents for Cathedral & History Center
- Photography & Videography
- Parish Newsletter
- Bereavement—prepare a dish/serve a meal

Project/Year

Administration & Finance

- Building and Grounds
- Church Cleaning
- Special Event Set-up/Clean-up

HELP WANTED

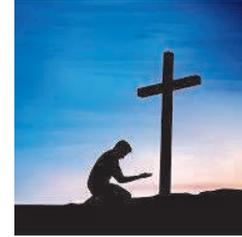
HOSPITALITY

Do you find yourself holding the door open for complete strangers? Do you say Hi to random people you pass on the street? The Cathedral needs your outgoing personality to welcome everyone who attends Mass. Passing out bulletins is a bonus



Folks say you are the **RACHEL RAY OF CASSEROLE DISHES**. Or perhaps you know the party store inside out. Searching for all creative invitation makers for the events team. Whatever your event skill, there's a need for you in Parish Life.

The **POWER OF PRAYER**. Is God calling you to expand your prayers for others? Many parishioners ask for prayers for many reasons, health, healing and so much more. Only a few minutes here and there as a member of the prayer ministry can bring the calming of the Holy Spirit to those in need.



HELP WANTED

History your thing? Always wish you were one of those **MUSEUM** tour guides? Here's your chance to share the rich history of the Cathedral and the Archdiocese with visitors and locals as a docent.

Looking to give back to the community? Have a burning desire to help the hungry? A couple of hours goes a long way in the Cathedral's **Daily Lunch Program**.

HELP WANTED

Tired of seeing the same Parishioners do everything? The Stewardship team is your chance to **RECRUIT NEW TALENT**. Good communication skills and a passion for getting things done are a must.

How many **PHOTOS** are on your phone? Over 10,000? Clearly, you have an interest in capturing the moment. If you have taken a class in photography or photojournalism, consider bringing the Cathedral, its people and events to life.

Are you a person who continually searches for ways to learn more about the Catholic faith? Do you feel a calling to help our future leaders by **TEACHING** and passing along your love and knowledge of religion? A couple of hours each Sunday as a religious educator can create a positive relationship with God that will last a lifetime.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Calling all computer wizards. The Cathedral is in need of technological geniuses or perhaps some savvy folks to update the website. If you are **UP WITH THE TECHNICAL TIMES**, join the tech team.

HELP WANTED



Singing in the rain, shower or perhaps anywhere in between without scaring the birds away? Play a musical instrument? Consider putting your talents to use each week as a member of one of the **CHOIRS**.

Former speech team member plus a passion for the Word? If you are comfortable speaking in front of large groups, the Ministry of **LECTORING** is for you.

By: Margaret Brosko

Layout: Tristan Padua

Cathedral of the Assumption

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THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.

The Cathedral provides many opportunities from working with our sister Parish in Haiti to local legislative efforts to partnerships with area agencies like St John's Center for Homeless Men. Make a difference today.



HELP WANTED

Skilled at carrying items — Cross, Holy Books, patens? Calling all men and women **ALTAR SERVERS** looking to sport a

HELP WANTED

Is your creative side looking for an outlet? Perhaps you journal. Consider motivating and inspiring others through the power of the **WRITTEN WORD**. The Cathedral publishes six newsletters a year and is always looking for creative

HELP WANTED



Did you love Drew Carey's secretary, Mimi Bobeck? You too can stuff envelopes and bulletins and help with other

big office projects. **CLOWN MAKE-UP** not required in the Parish Office!

The Cathedral Star Staff Members

Margaret Brosko
Jack Lydon
Kay Madrick
Sharon Mattingly
Tristan Padua
Martha Villiger



Office Liaison
Angela Wiggins



Masthead Design
Teresa Heintzman